transfer the officials who are overstaying the fixed tenure to provide better service to general public; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (h) while no tenure of stay has been formally fixed it would be desirable for all officials (except Group 'D' officials and those taken on deputation) to have a tenure of 3-5 years depending on their grades. A number of officials working in various Passport Offices, including Delhi, have been in position for over 4 years. The Government, however, is not aware of this having resulted in their developing links with touts. Administrative guidelines governing transfers of the officials of Passport Offices are being framed. In future transfers will be regulated by these guidelines.

The public are free to visit the Regional Passport Office at Delhi from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on every working day except Wednesdays. On an average the office receives 1000 visitors who are serviced at 10 counters.

B.B.C. film on nuclear energy in India

3668. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the B.B.C. had recently shown a film on the use of nuclear energy by India;

(b) if so, whether Government had given permission for the filming of the above documentary in India;

(c) whether the film shows India in bad light; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Government is not aware of BBC having recently shown a film on nuclear energy in India. There was, however, a documentary titled 'Nuclear India: A dream gone sour' which was shown on Channel 3 of ITV.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The film seems to be motivated with a view to denigrade the achievements of India in the peaceful application of nuclear energy. The allegations made against India have been suitably rebutted through our High Commission in London to counter the misinformation brought out in the ITV film.

Rail link between Calcutta and North Eastern States via Bangladesh

3669. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI ASHIS SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government for rail movement and water transport between North-Eastern States and Calcutta via Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bangladesh authorities have been approached several times in the past with a request for providing rail transit facilities across the Bangladesh railway system. We already have an Inland Waterways Protocol with Bangladesh, linking Calcutta with two points in Assam. However, since this arragement leaves our States of Tripura and Meghalaya untouched, we have also approached the Bangladesh authorities

for a suitable expansion of our water transit route. So far, however, Bangladesh has been reluctant to respond positively to our proposal.

Possession of Nuclear bombs by Pakistan

3670. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Pioneer dated the 3rd December, 1992 under the caption "Pakistan has seven N-bombs"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Payment of dues to United Nations

3671. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India propose to bring up the issue of non-payment of dues to the United Nations, particularly those by big powers like the USA through any U.N. or other international Forum;

(b) what are the total arrears of dues according to United Nations Secretary General's Circular of September this year; and

(c) how much of it is owed by big powers and by India and other developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) India had raised the question of non-payment of dues by member States to the UN on several occasions in the relevant Committee of the UN. The most recent occasion was the call by the Indian PR on 10th October, 1992 for prompt payment of dues by member States.

(b) The total arrears due to the UN for regular budget and peace-keeping operations as on 31 October 1992 was US $1470.4 million. Of this, US $640 million was due in respect of peace keeping operations.

(c) The amount of arrears owed to the UN by big powers, developing countries and India are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXV, Annexure No. 59]

Proposal for environment protection fund at NAM Summit

3672. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for environment protection fund, on the lines of the proposal earlier mooted by the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, was moved by India during the recent Non-aligned Summit meet held at Jakarta; and

(b) if so, what consensus was arrived at in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. At the recent NAM Summit which was held in Jakarta in September, 1992, India had put forward a proposal for a funding mechanism to develop and acquire environmentally sound technologies for developing countries along the lines of the Planet Protection Fund mooted by late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

(b) This proposal was endorsed by the Jakarta NAM Summit.